

WILL ELIMINATE
THE DISCUSSION

General Disposition on Part of House to Dodge the Tariff.

MAIN CONTENTION IS
TO BE OVER LUMBER

Southern Representatives Favor
Maintaining the Present Sched-
ule in Preference to a Cut.
Louisiana Delegation Con-
siders Effect of Free
Trade on Rice Industry.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 19.—There is a general disposition in the House to eliminate as far as possible any academic discussion of the tariff. Members on both sides are desirous of having as little general debate as possible and as much time as is practicable for the consideration of the bill under the five-minute rule for amendments.

When the Dingley bill was before Congress less than a week was devoted to the discussion of the bill under the five-minute rule, while it is likely that a rule will be brought in to limit the time for considering amendments. It is believed that sufficient time will be allowed for the consideration of the whole bill under the five-minute rule.

The bill is expected to be over the cut made in the lumber industry. It is understood the Southern representatives are almost unanimously in favor of retaining the present duty of \$2 per thousand feet. They will have the support of many members from the Northwest and Pacific Coast States.

Hidden and Leather.

Hides and leather have been

will be the subject of considerable debate. An earnest effort will be made by the Democrats to have shoes and other leather products reduced at least 5 or 10 per cent, and to have hides retained on the free list. On boots and shoes, according to the new tariff, will be levied a duty of 15 per cent, a

While this is a reduction of 10 per cent. ad valorem, it is contended by those who favor further reduction that the shoe men themselves have admitted that they could stand a reduction of 5 or 10 per cent. more if high were admitted free. The representatives of Western States will make a

Rice Industry.
The Louisiana delegation met to-day to consider the effect that the free trade provision for the Philippine Islands would have on the rice industry in the United States. They will

endeavor to have the minority report of the Ways and Means Committee favor a small duty on rice imported from the Philippines, or the quantity entitled to free entry restricted, as has been done with sugar and tobacco. The committee composed of Senator Foster and Representatives Broussard and Pujo was appointed to consult with

General Clarence Edwards, chief of the Insular Bureau of the War Department regarding the Philippine rice importations.

In explanation of the retention of the countervailing duty clause on petroleum, it is claimed that Mexico has developed large oil fields and that the

provision limiting the free entry of oil to countries which do not impose a tax on the importation of American oil was made to prevent the importation of Mexican oil free of duty if that country should impose a tax on oil from the United States.

Metal Not Criticized.

There has been very little criticism of the metal industry.

in the House of the metal schedule, but it is claimed that duty on wrought and cast scrap iron should be equal to the duty on pig iron, as is provided in the Dingley law. In the Payne bill scrap iron is covered by a duty of 50 cents per ton, while the duty on pig iron is \$2.50 per ton.

In speaking of this schedule a member of the House to-day declared that its effect would be to reduce the importation of pig iron to practically

nothing, while all the scrap iron that could be secured in foreign countries would be brought into this country.

The reading of the tariff bill in the House to-day was interrupted by Mr. Payne with the announcement that

Mr. Sims, of Tennessee, inquired of the chair the reason for reading the bill when no one was paying attention. The chair reminded him that the rules required such procedure unless by unanimous consent, the reading was dispensed with.

"I object," shouted Mr. Payne in loud voice, and the clerk proceeded.

Mr. Sims declared that as it was evident that if the bill was not to be used by paragraph for amendment (1)

bill should be passed now. "The reading of the bill means nothing," he said. "It is also perfectly evident that every member in the House going to vote for it if no opportunity

is given to vote for a bill perfected by desirable amendments or for a Democratic substitute. Therefore, if we are not to be permitted to amend this bill, I ask unanimous consent, in order that

The chairman actually put the question, and the committee unquestionably would have risen but for an ob-

section by Mr. Mann, of Illinois, neither Chairman Payne nor any other member of the Ways and Means Committee being present at the time.

Mr. Sims began to explain his view further, when Mr. Bartlett, of Georgia, objected "to further proceedings."

"this kind," and demanded the regula-